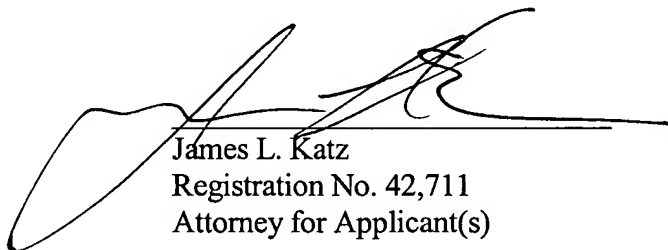


### REMARKS

This preliminary amendment adds no new matter to this application and is supported by the specification. Further, this amendment has been made for reasons unrelated to patentability.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the attorney on record, James L. Katz, at (312) 321-7739.

Respectfully submitted,



James L. Katz  
Registration No. 42,711  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. BOX 10395  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610  
(312) 321-4200